comparison means arranged to compare the predetermined parameter determined for said first file with the predetermined parameter determined for each other file; and

output means responsive to said comparison means and having an output which indicates whether said first file is valid.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-18 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 10 are independent. Claim 10 has been amended to further clarify Applicant's claimed invention by removing the comma in line 13, immediately after "said first file." The claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8, 10-12, 14, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reber (6,061,758) in view of Kionka (6,361,357). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

A. Discussion of Reber

Reber is directed to a system and method for managing storage and retrieval of media data. Reber discloses that when editing media (i.e., video and audio data) on either a linear or non-linear system, source material from a source, such as a video tape or audio recording, is broken down into a series of separate clips representing the material desired for the final master (Col. 1, lines 44-47). The clips may then be reassembled into a final sequence achieving the desire of the editor and producer (Col. 1, lines 47-49). In a typical non-linear system, digitized sections of the original source are stored in media files in system storage. Each clip is associated with one of these media files so that the clips could refer to the media files when certain information about the source media was needed, such as the original source name or nature of the media (Col. 1, lines 51-60).